



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Angela Wells

9 July 2015

### NEW MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Dear Parent/Carer

In keeping with our drive to minimise disruption in school, we have recently conducted a full enquiry into the use of mobile phones in school. A recent survey carried out nationally indicated that schools that banned mobile phones saw a 6% increase in their exam grades. The current concern with phone use in The Buckingham School is due to the following:

- Prime source of Low Level Disruption (LLD) in lessons leading to consistent confiscation of phones by staff
- Students calling parents to pick them up if they feel ill, without any contact through the Medical room or Student Office
- Staff having photos taken and used in Social Media
- Persistent safeguarding issues and concerns
- Mobile phone use has had questionable and proven impact on Teaching and Learning across the school

As a result a working party has created a policy for mobile phone use that is to be implemented from September 2015. This is:

“That all mobile phone use to be prohibited on the school site, including all social times and class changeover. This applies to any electronic device brought in by students that is deemed to be obstructive and disruptive to Teaching and Learning. This may include phones, I-pads, I-pods, DS/Game consoles and smart watches. This does not include those students who require the use of electronic devices as an essential tool for their learning. Mobiles may be in school; however they must not be seen or heard.”

The proposal has been brought to staff and parent forums and has been well supported; due to the impact phone usage is currently having on learning in school. As a school our primary focus is on ensuring Teaching and Learning is not disrupted and that students have the opportunity to achieve the maximum potential.

There will be a clear process that staff will follow if students continue to use phones in class and this will also be published on the school website. As a school we appreciate parental support in all initiatives and we have been hugely encouraged by the response from those parents who attended the parent forum. As always the student office will be a designated area where students can get messages to and call parents, and will be ensuring messages are delivered to students from parents.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate in contacting me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Wardle

Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour, Attendance and Safety

